




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT-ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP

Integrated community registration outreach programme

By: Nomhle Sibanyoni: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Minister of Communications, Faith Muthambi visited Nelspruit in Mpumalanga on a four-session izimbizo during September 2014.

- During the first session the Minister engaged with media houses (SABC, Barbeton Community Radio, Nkomazi FM, Kasi FM, MiTV, Rise FM, *Ziwaphi News*, *Thaba Chweu News*, *Nkomazi Observer*, *Emalahleni FM* and *SA News*). Media houses were afforded the opportunity to engage with the Minister raising issues of concern and the SABC, Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA), Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (Icasa) and the Minister responded to questions and issues raised.
- The second engagement had the Minister talking to 14 National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) beneficiaries exposed to variety of projects such as pest controlling, cleaning, gardening, IT, ice manufacturing, hardware and media productions.
- In the third session, the Minister addressed communicators from different spheres of government and community development workers, who were attending a two-day communicators' training session. Presentations made were on rapid response, media training, the National Communication Strategy Framework, local government audit outcomes and communication research. During her address the Minister encouraged communicators to continue using all available platforms in communicating the good work of government.
- Minister Muthambi had an interview at the Bushbuckridge Community Radio Station where she talked about her izimbizo with the media houses, NYDA beneficiaries and engagement with government communicators.



Minister Faith Muthambi live on Bushbuckridge Community Radio accompanied by Mr Tiisetso Ramotse, the Mpumalanga Provincial Director and Mr Michael Currin (PLL Chief Director).

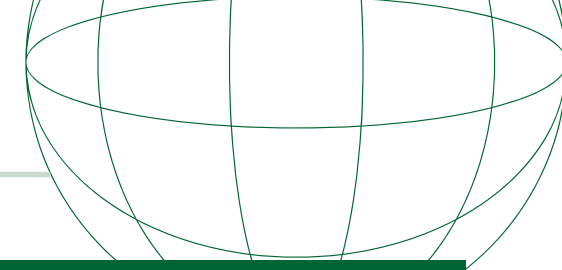
Communicators' training sessions. The Minister addressing communicators. The MEC for Culture, Sports and Recreation accompanied the Minister.



government
communications

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





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OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Deputy Minister hands over computers to Murray High School

By: J J Grootboom: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Deputy Minister of Communications, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams handed over computers to Murray High School on Wednesday, 10 September 2014. The computers were donated by Land Bank. The handover was followed by a formal session attended by pupils and educators in the school hall.

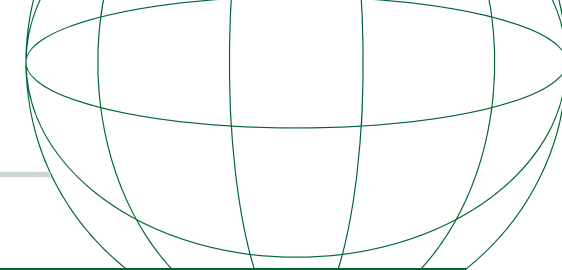
In her address, the Deputy Minister spoke briefly about the experience of growing up in the then homelands and the importance of education. She urged learners to use the computers for research because that would help them excel in their studies. In celebrating Heritage Month, the Deputy Minister requested the learners to tell their stories that move South Africa forward.



Mandilakhe Vayisi said: “During the apartheid regime our country was full of segregation and discrimination. We were unable to attend the so-called white schools. But today, because of democracy, we are able to attend any school of our choice. Our democracy brought many opportunities for black people such as financial support through bursaries to further our studies. There is also a child support grant for underprivileged children and RDP housing for families that cannot afford to buy houses. These are some of the benefits that democracy brought to our people.”



Mrs Murray said: “The school was started in 1995, just after the democratically elected government came into power. There was a dire need for a high school for black learners, and I built this school to fulfil this need.”



Mponeng Mabe, 62, of Paballelo location, said she was delighted to have the hospital built closer to her community. Before the new hospital opened, Mabe used to catch two taxis to access health services at the old Gordonia hospital. “Whenever I got transferred there [Gordonia] by the clinic, I got so frustrated by the thought of sitting for almost an hour in a taxi not feeling well. Then I would have to queue again when I got to the hospital. This is great for us, I am really happy,” said Mabe, who lives almost eight kilometres away from the new 327-bed hospital.



Sonia Lephepha, also from Pabalello, said it has been her long-term wish to have a hospital closer to her because she was ageing. “My husband and I are ageing, and travelling to the hospital is already a problem. So I am happy because I just take one taxi from my house to this new hospital,” said the 63-year-old Lephepha. Lephepha, who has been living at Pabalello for more than 30 years, said she was aware that the new hospital will also create jobs for youth in Upington and neighbouring areas. “Maybe my children or grandchildren will work at the hospital,” she said.

OUTCOME 2: A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS

State-of-the-art hospital opened in the //Khara Hais Municipality in Upington

By: Wally Cloete, GCIS Northern Cape

President Jacob Zuma opened the state-of-the-art hospital in Upington on 2 September 2014. The hospital is one of the massive infrastructures the President committed government to roll out.

The R1-billion Dr Harry Surtie Hospital, named after the late dentist who, in the apartheid days used to help community members free of charge, marks one of the milestones of 20 Years of Freedom and Democracy. The hospital replaces the Gordonia Hospital, which could not handle all health challenges due to limited number of beds and amenities.

The central location of the hospital has made health services easily accessible, which was not the case with the old hospital. “One of the state-of-the-art pieces of equipment in the Dr Harry Surtie Hospital is the Lodox Machine (X-ray scanner), a South African product,” said Minister Motsoaledi. The Minister also promised to attract more doctors to come and serve the public.

The Dr Harry Surtie Hospital will reduce referrals to Kimberley and improve local access to more specialist services. These services include radiology, paediatric care, an intensive care unit, a TB unit, casualty/trauma services, maternity care, allied health services, surgical and ophthalmology services, medicine and offices of the Department of Home Affairs and the Road Accident Fund (RAF).

President Zuma reiterated that the construction of Dr Harry Surtie hospital will not only offer health services, but had created more than 200 direct and indirect jobs for residents of Upington and surrounding areas.

A satellite nursing college in addition to Henrietta Stockdale Nursing College in Kimberley will be built at the old Gordonia Hospital and two others in Kuruman and De Aar. Further it will also provide training for emergency care services.



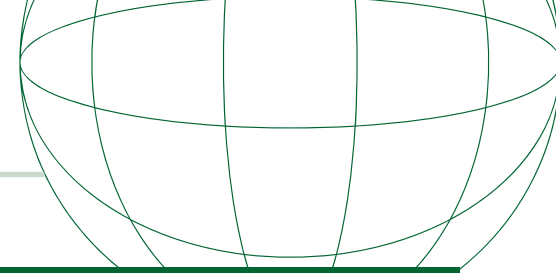
The presenter of “Morning Live” interviewed the Premier of the Northern Cape, Sylvia Lucas the morning before the opening.



MEC of Health in the Northern Cape, Mac Jack, during the Radio Talk Show the day before the opening to inform and invite the communities.



The President unveiling the plaque during the official opening of the Dr Harry Surtie Hospital.



Mr SE Modise said: “Government has helped me to have branding materials and business cards, now my customer base has increased.”



Keitumetse Moeketsi of the Are-Tsweleng Service Club said: “Beadwork, patchwork, and sewing is benefiting and feeding many families in Jouberton.”

OUTCOME 5: A SKILLED AND CAPABLE WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT AN INCLUSIVE GROWTH PATH

Women in the business of heritage, arts and culture

By: Xolani Mdaweni: GCIS, North West

As September 2014 and Heritage Month rolled around, the women in Matlosana didn’t hesitate in telling their story through arts and crafts. The Department of Arts and Culture arranged for women from various townships in Matlosana to bring their arts and crafts to the Klerksdorp city centre where they exhibited and sold their handmade products.

One of the exhibitors, Ms Mildred Coultex from Alabama township said, “I was working at a furniture store, but was retrenched. Thanks to the Department of Arts and Culture I was taken for training at Mmabana where I learnt to do various crafts. Now I have my own registered company and I can feed my children with the income I’m receiving!”

An official from the Department of Arts and Culture, Fikile Bothman, told us that their department was committed to developing the local arts and craft entrepreneurs and wanted to expose them to the market through such exhibitions. Mr Bothman said, “As we hold these exhibitions once a quarter, our goal is to ultimately establish a flea market where these gifted entrepreneurs can sell and create their goods every day.”

The Klerksdorp city centre became abuzz as onlookers took some timeout to admire and buy some of the items on display. The items ranged from knitted clothing, bead work, leather shoes and bags, and even sophisticated hats.

Naledi Makurube from Jouberton now owns her own leather craft shop in the Klerksdorp CBD. “We specialise in leather garments such as belts, shoes and fashionable bags, thanks to government we are now recognised as brand of quality.”

Other exhibitors were the Are-Tsweleng Service Club non-governmental organisation of senior-citizen women from Jouberton who specialise in knitting and bead work. There were also young craftsmen from the Dela Casa Wear who specialise in beautiful hats.

